



---

## **PRESS RELEASE**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 15, 2003**

For Information Contact Public Affairs  
PATRICK SCHNEIDER  
Telephone: (602) 514-7547  
Pager: (602) 356-0207

# **FORMER PINON COMMUNITY SCHOOL EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on January 14, 2002, in Federal District Court, Phoenix, Arizona, Sarah Ann Begaye, DOB 5-10-47, of Pinon, Arizona, pled guilty to one felony count of Theft from a Tribal School. Sarah Ann Begaye had been charged by Indictment with violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 1163. A conviction for violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 1163 carries a maximum penalty of five (5) years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both.

Ms. Begaye admitted that from January 1997 through the end of 1998 she had been employed at the Pinon Community School, Pinon, Arizona, on the Navajo Indian Reservation, as a Residential Program Assistant. During that time she forged nine blank payroll checks, totaling \$26,742, and converted the proceeds to her own use.

Sentencing is set before Judge Mary H. Murguia on March 31, 2003 at 1:30 pm.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Flagstaff Office.

(MORE)

The prosecution is being handled by Mark E. Aspey, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Flagstaff, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-909-PCT-MHM  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-005

# # #